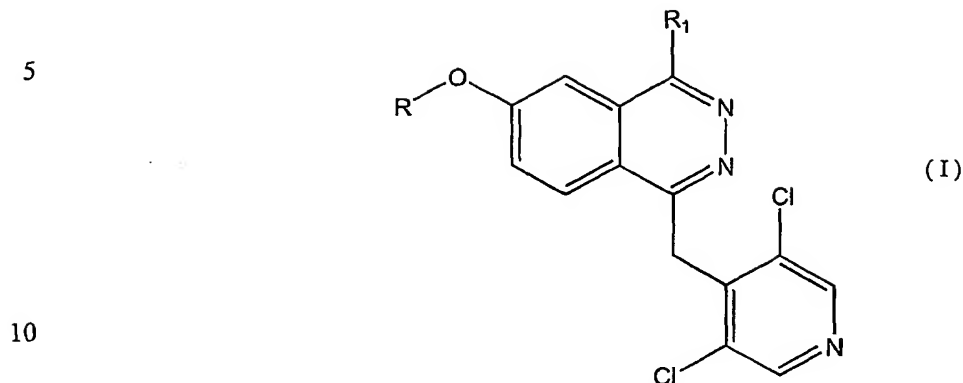


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Claims

1) A compound of formula



wherein

R is methyl or a difluoromethyl group;

R₁ is phenyl or a 5 or 6 membered aromatic heterocycle containing from 1 to 3 heteroatoms
15 selected among nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur and bonded to the phthalazine nucleus by a
carbon-carbon bond, both the phenyl and the heterocycle being substituted with a carboxy
group and optionally with a second functional group selected among methoxy, nitro, N-
acetylamino, N-methanesulfonyl-amino;
the N-oxidised derivatives of the compounds of formula I and the pharmaceutically
20 acceptable salts thereof.

2) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R₁ is phenyl substituted with a carboxy group
and optionally with a second functional group selected among methoxy, nitro, N-
acetylamino, N-methanesulfonyl-amino.

3) A compound according to claim 2 wherein R₁ is phenyl substituted with a carboxy group
25 and particularly the carboxy group is in meta position with regard to the phthalazine nucleus.

4) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R₁ is a 5 or 6 membered aromatic heterocycle
containing from 1 to 3 heteroatoms selected among nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur and
bonded to the phthalazine nucleus by a carbon-carbon bond, substituted with a carboxy
group and optionally with a second functional group selected among methoxy, nitro, N-
30 acetylamino, N-methanesulfonyl-amino;

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5) A compound according to claim 1 selected from:

3-[4-(3,5-Dichloro-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-7-methoxy-phthalazin-1-yl]-benzoic acid;

4-[4-(3,5-Dichloro-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-7-methoxy-phthalazin-1-yl]-benzoic acid;

5 2-[4-(3,5-Dichloro-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-7-methoxy-phthalazin-1-yl]-benzoic acid;

3-[4-(3,5-Dichloro-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-7-methoxy-phthalazin-1-yl]-5-nitro-benzoic acid;

5-[4-(3,5-Dichloro-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-7-methoxy-phthalazin-1-yl]-2-methoxy-benzoic acid;

3-[4-(3,5-Dichloro-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-7-methoxy-phthalazin-1-yl]-4-methoxy-benzoic acid;

3-[4-(3,5-Dichloro-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-7-methoxy-phthalazin-1-yl]-5-methanesulfonyl-amino-benzoic acid;

3-Acetylamino-5-[4-(3,5-dichloro-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-7-methoxy-phthalazin-1-yl]-benzoic acid;

15 3-[4-(3,5-Dichloro-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-7-methoxy-phthalazin-1-yl]-5-methoxy-benzoic acid;

3-[4-(3,5-Dichloro-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-7-difluoromethoxy-phthalazin-1-yl]-benzoic acid;

2-[4-(3,5-Dichloro-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-7-methoxy-phthalazin-1-yl]-oxazole-4-carboxylic acid;

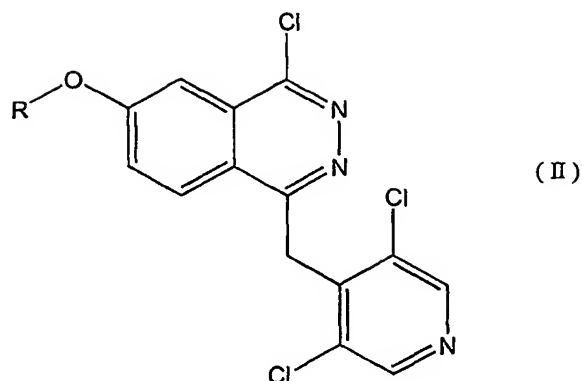
20 2-[4-(3,5-Dichloro-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-7-methoxy-phthalazin-1-yl]-thiophene-3-carboxylic acid;

(2-amino-2-hydroxymethyl-propane-1,3-diol) salt of 3-[4-(3,5-Dichloro-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-7-methoxy-phthalazin-1-yl]-benzoic acid;

N-methyl-glucamine salt of 3-[4-(3,5-Dichloro-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-7-methoxy-phthalazin-1-yl]-benzoic acid;

6) A process for the preparation of a compound according to claim 1 by an aromatic nucleophilic substitution reaction or a coupling reaction, in presence of a catalyst such as for example palladium, between a compound of formula

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10 wherein

R has the meanings reported for the compounds of formula I;

and a reactant such as a tin or boronic acid derivative, suitable for the substitution of the halogen atom directly bonded to the phthalazine nucleus with a phenyl or a heterocycle substituted with a carboxy group and optionally with a second functional group defined in

15 the meanings of R₁ in formula I.

7) A process according to claim 6 wherein the coupling reaction is carried out between the compounds of formula II and the proper boronic acid in presence of palladium, triphenylphosphine and an aqueous solution of potassium carbonate.

8) A pharmaceutical composition containing a therapeutically effective amount of a
20 compound according to claim 1 in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

9) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8 for the treatment of allergic and inflammatory diseases

10) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8 for the treatment of respiratory diseases.